



## **emerald shiner**

*Notropis atherinoides*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Cypriniformes
Family:	Cyprinidae

## **Features**

The emerald shiner is flattened side to side. It appears delicate, but is a hardy minnow. Its large mouth is turned downward at the corners and is located at the tip of the snout. It has an emerald green back with a distinct silver stripe along the side and a white belly. An adult may reach 3 1/2 inches long.

## **Natural History**

The emerald shiner is found in interior rivers as well as the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. It also is found in smaller streams, but is much less common and has been introduced into Rathbun Reservoir. It is found in mid-depth to surface waters of the main and side channels of large streams, often in large schools. It spawns from mid-May to late July. Young fish eat algae. Adults eat insects at the water's surface.

## **Habitats**

interior rivers and streams; Mississippi River; Missouri River; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

## **Iowa Status**

common; native

## **Iowa Range**

statewide

## **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.